

Additional file 4 – Newcastle Ottawa Quality Assessment Scale for Cohort Studies

Table: Newcastle-Ottawa Quality Assessment Scale for Cohort Studies – Scores for Included Studies

Author, Year	Selection			Comparability			Outcome			Total
	Representativeness of the exposed cohort	Selection of the non-exposed cohort	Ascertainment of exposure	Demonstration that Outcome of Interest was not Present at Start of Study	Comparability of Cohorts on the Basis of the Design or Analysis ^a	Study Controls for Any Additional Factor ^b	Assessment of Outcome	Was Follow-Up Long Enough for Outcomes to Occur ^c	Adequacy of Follow-up of Cohorts ^d	
Poulose et al, 2013 [1]	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	7
Seow et al, 2013 [2]	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	7
Ikegami et al, 2012 [3]	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	6
Levy et al, 2012 [4]	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	6
Taylor et al, 2011 [5]	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	7
Houttekier et al, 2011 [6]	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	6
Ikezaki et al, 2011 [7]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	7
Cardenas-Turanza et al, 2011 [8]	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	8
Fukui et al, 2011 [9]	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
Hong et al, 2011 [10]	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	6
Houttekier et al, 2010 [11]	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	7
Houttekier et al, 2010 [12]	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	6

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Tang et al, 2010 [13]	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	7
Hayashi et al, 2011 [14]	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	5
Bell et al, 2009 [15]	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	5
Kwak et al, 2008 [16]	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	7
Lin et al, 2007 [17]	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	7
Gruneir et al, 2007 [18]	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	7
Takezako et al, 2007 [19]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	8
Motiwala et al, 2006 [20]	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	8
Cohen et al, 2006 [21]	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	6
Brazil et al, 2005 [22]	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
Klinkenberg et al, 2005 [23]	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	7
Aabom et al, 2005 [24]	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	7
Fukui et al, 2004 [25]	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	7

Author, Year	Selection				Comparability		Outcome			Total
	Representativeness of the exposed cohort	Selection of the non-exposed cohort	Ascertainment of exposure	Demonstration that Outcome of Interest was not Present at Start of Study	Comparability of Cohorts on the Basis of the Design or Analysis ^a	Study Controls for Any Additional Factor ^b	Assessment of Outcome	Was Follow-Up Long Enough for Outcomes to Occur ^c	Adequacy of Follow-up of Cohorts ^d	
Levy et al, 2004 [26]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	7

^aA point was awarded to the study if at least 1 factor from each major domain (sociodemographic, illness-related, and health service availability) was used in the multivariable analysis.

^bA point was awarded to the study if the multivariable analysis adjusted for patient or family preference regarding place of death.

^cA point was awarded to the study if the follow-up was provided and was within 2 years of the patient's death.

^dA point was awarded to the study if losses to follow-up were reported and represented less than 35% of the original study cohort.

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